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From Page:
4
3/28/2007
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135 State senior citizens' handbook updated

South Carolina seniors and their families have a new roadmap to help them navigate the many different programs and services available to seniors, as well as a source of information on diverse topics such as financial planning, consumer protection and legal issues, thanks to the efforts of members of the state's legal community.

The 2007 edition of the South Carolina Bar's "Senior Citizens' Handbook" is now available online via the Bar's web site and the web site of the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging. The popular publication was last updated in 1992. Like the original edition, the updated handbook was produced by the Bar's Young Lawyers Division, with the help of numerous contributors from a cross section of government agencies and other organizations.

"The Bar members, staff and the many volunteers who helped put this thing together deserve a big round of applause," said Lt. Governor André Bauer. "The Office on Aging was glad to be able to play a part in it. We plan to

distribute copies of the handbook to the folks in all of our regional and county partners organizations that are on the frontlines of helping seniors on a daily basis, as well as to the state's Congressional offices and county statehouse delegation offices and to the state library system – basically wherever seniors might go for guidance or assistance."

While the initial print run of the handbook was limited, plans are being made to print additional bound copies for distribution to the general public. In the meantime, the book can be read or downloaded for free from the Internet using the Adobe PDF reader at either of the following URLs:

<http://www.scbar.org/pdf/YLD/SrCitGuide.pdf>

or <http://www.aging.sc.gov/docs/SrCitGuide.pdf>

Inside the handbook, readers will find information on a host of topics, such as:

- Healthcare Financing, including; Medicare, Medicaid, Long Term Care, Insurance and Reverse Mortgages
- Rights and Protections, including: Housing, Con-

sumerism, Bankruptcy and Debt Adjustment, Special Consumer Issues, Protection from Crime, Basic Rights, Age Discrimination and Small Claims Court

- Protective Services, including; Representative Payees, Adult Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, Guardianship and Conservatorship and Civil Commitment

- Financial Planning and Medical Decision Making, including; Estate Planning, Wills, the Patient Self-Determination Act, Living Wills, Healthcare Power of Attorney, the Adult Healthcare Consent Act, Probate and Administration, Powers of Attorney and Employment Past Retirement

- Financial Assistance, including; Tax Relief, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement, Veterans Benefits and Optional Supplement Programs

The publication also includes a directory of aging services and organizations in South Carolina, and a community resource directory.